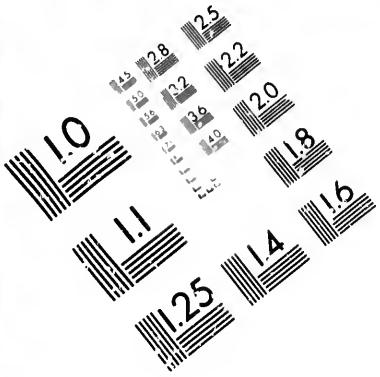

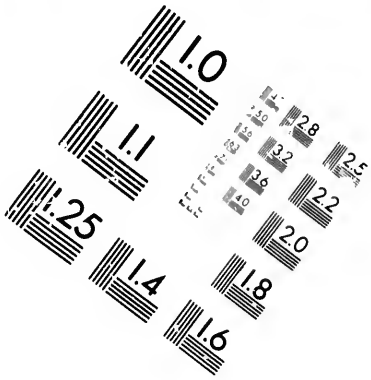

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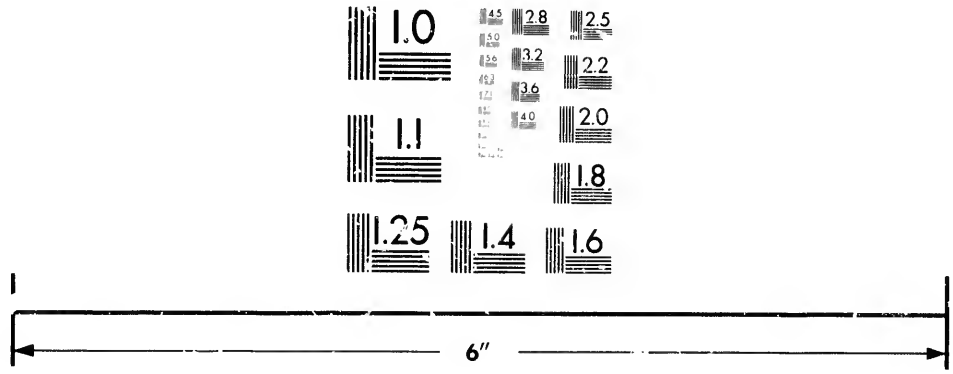

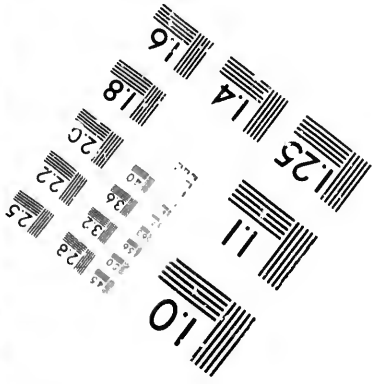

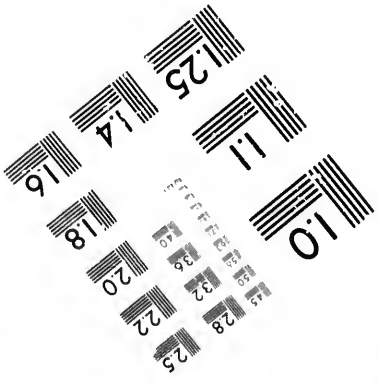

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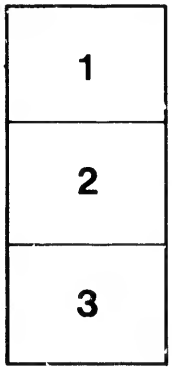

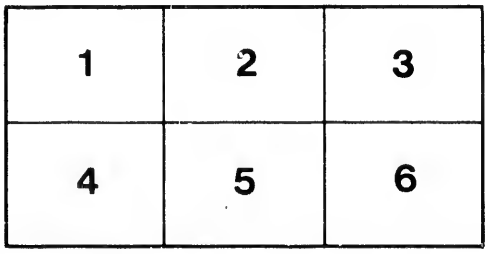

TWO CHAPTERS

IN THE LIFE OF

F. M., H. R. H. EDWARD,

DUKE OF KENT.

BY

WILLIAM JAMES ANDERSON,

L. R. C. SURGEONS, EDIN., VICE-PRESIDENT QUEBEC LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

"To hold as 'twere the mirror up to nature."

(*Read before the Society*, 1867.)

OTTAWA:

PRINTED BY HUNTER, ROSE & COMPANY.

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INTRODUCTORY.

—

ONE of the objects of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, is the prosecution of researches into the early history of Canada, and the recovering, procuring and publishing interesting documents and useful information in connexion with the natural, civil and literary history of British North America. Having, during the past year, been in professional attendance on the late Lieut.-Colonel de Salaberry, Deputy Adjutant General of the Province, and the son of that distinguished Canadian soldier, Lieut.-Colonel Charles Michel de Salaberry, whose name is inseparably connected with Canada as the Victor of Chateauguay, I had many opportunities of conversing with him on that great exploit, as also on the general career of his father. Seeing that I felt so much interest in the subject, Col. de Salaberry placed in my hands certain letters addressed to his father by the late Duke of Kent, and I was thus enabled to prepare a paper which I read before the Society.

After its publication in the "Transactions" of the Society, it became known that there had been placed in my hands by Col. de Salaberry and his younger brother Charles, a correspondence between the Duke of Kent and members of the de Salaberry family, extending from 1791 to 1818, and a very general opinion was expressed by friends whose opinion I valued, that I should not rest with the publication of the paper which I had read, but should undertake to write a life of the Duke of Kent, based on the materials in my possession.

It has been said that when personal character and habits form the principal subject of interest, a stranger stands at too great a distance to give the portrait a faithful outline or correct coloring, and that a true one can be only pourtrayed by him whose friendly intercourse gave opportunity of marking the peculiar characteristics of the subject. This is undoubtedly to a certain extent true, but it will also be admitted that he who writes his own biography often discloses traits of which no other person is cognizant, and gives an insight into his own character which might not otherwise

be obtained, and that by letters, we may truly be brought, as it were into personal correspondence with the distant and the dead.

The Duke of Kent was an able and voluminous correspondent, and from the care with which his letters have been preserved, has thus unconsciously become his own biographer; but this biography has hitherto been confined to the limited circles of the families or friends of his correspondents, and the few of his letters which have been published in his life by the Rev. Erskine Neale, have only excited a desire to see more.

I feel that the valuable correspondence which has been placed in my hands, has furnished abundant matter for writing a life; but, after mature deliberation, I have determined simply to hold the mirror up to nature, making myself a mere amanuensis; nothing extenuating and withholding nothing, but giving the true photograph. In the present publication I propose to give the ***whole*** of the letters in my possession, not merely all in number, but the contents, merely filling up the narrative where it is obvious some connecting statements are required, and I feel that I can do this without the slightest hesitation, assured there will not be found in the correspondence of the Duke of Kent a single expression calculated to offend the most refined taste, but that every letter will furnish an additional proof of his princely nature and the high and generous qualities which he invariably brought to bear in his intercourse with his fellow men.

THE DUKE OF KENT.

CHAPTER I.

Birth—Childhood—Early Education—Military Training—Luneberg—Hanover—Geneva—Gibraltar.

"Still on the spot Lord Marmion staid,
For fairer scene he ne'er surveyed,
The wandering eye could o'er it go,
And mark the distant city glow
In gloomy thunder red,
For on the smoke, wreathes huge and slow,
That round her sable turrets glow
The morning beams were shed,
And tinged them with a lustre proud,
Like that which streaks a thunder cloud;
Such dusky grandeur clothed the height,
Where the huge castle holds its state
And all the steep slope down,
Whose ridgy back heaves to the sky,
Piled deep and massy, close and high
Mine own romantic town."—

Marmion.

On the evening of Thursday, 11th August, 1791, His Majesty's ships "Ulysses" and "Resolution," seven weeks from Gibraltar, and having on board the 7th Royal Fusileers, commanded by His Royal Highness Prince Edward, rounded Pointe Levis, when there burst upon the view one of the most charming scenes the eye could dwell upon. On the right was the end of the beautiful Island of Orleans,—the *Isle of Bacchus* of Cartier,—studded with the white cottages of the *habitants*, embowered in trees; on the opposite side of the north channel, on the main land, was seen the snow-white Fall of Montmorenci, from whence the shore trended with a gentle curve to the mouth of the River St. Charles, or *Little River*. From the Falls, a long straggling line of white cottages, skirted the road to the pretty village of Beauport, beyond which rose a lofty range of wooded heights stretching on to Ancient Lorette. On the left, forming the

south shore of the basin rose the picturesque Pointe Levis, and at the head of the basin, between the Little River and the mighty St. Lawrence stood prominently forward Cape Diamond, rising abruptly from the water to the height of three hundred and forty-five feet, surmounted by the Citadel, and the "steep slope down" piled with public and private buildings, the tin roofs of which glittering in the setting sun, gave an appearance of fairy land. The scene was most calculated to impress with pleasurable sensations the Prince, who during his whole life shewed a high relish for the picturesque, and who was doubly interested where, everywhere he turned, his eye rested on ground rendered classic, by the military operations of Wolfe and Montcalm.

Prince Edward Augustus, the fourth son of George the Third, was then in the twenty-fifth year of his age, having been born at Buckingham House, on the 2nd November, 1767. The month, says the Rev. Erskine Neale, was gloomy November, but there was gloom also in the Palace, Edward, Duke of York, the favorite brother of the King, was then lying in state in his coffin, and was buried the following day, and the Prince was christened on the 30th of the same month, and was named after his deceased uncle.

At an early period of his life, he was placed under the charge of Mr. Fisher, subsequently Canon of Windsor and Bishop of Exeter and Salisbury, and to this happy circumstance he was indebted for a training which told on his future life, enabling him to meet heroically, if not to surmount many difficulties, and to bear with Christian fortitude and equanimity the injustice and mortifications to which he was so long subjected. He was noted in childhood (and the child was father to the man) for a frank and generous disposition, and according to his tutor the love of truth was in him, paramount to every consideration.

In the eighteenth year of his age he chose the profession of arms, and was sent to Luneberg in Hanover, to prosecute his studies under the Baron Wangenheim, whom he has described as "an arbitrary and inflexible governor," and "a mercenary tyrant," who enforced with unrelenting severity the wearying and mechanical details of parade and drill.

Luneberg is described by Mr. Neale, as a wretched poverty stricken place, surrounded by ague breeding marshes, and without society. No wonder then that the Prince was disgusted with his profession and the world; and that he was delighted when at the close of the year he was removed to

Hanover, though, as he afterwards said, "it was a change of scene, but with it came no remedy of existing evils."

We are also told that the Baron, whose whole soul was divided between drill and the accumulation of money, did not hesitate to appropriate to himself under one pretext or other, the greater portion of his allowance, restricting his pocket money to one guinea and a-half per week, and to prevent his remonstrances reaching his father, a rigid espionage was established, his letters were intercepted, and his conduct misrepresented, so that, again to use his own language, "my letters never having reached the King, he was displeased at my apparently undutiful conduct, I was described to him as recklessly extravagant, and much of the estrangement between my royal parent and myself—much of the sorrow of my after life—may be ascribed to that most uncalled for sojourn in the Electorate."

The Reverend Erskine Neale has very justly observed that in Germany the soldier is not a man but a machine, not a living being with hopes, aspirations and opinions of his own, but an automaton. His life, one never ending parade, he marks the successive changes of existence, by drills. Such the British soldier never can become, and the attempt to make him such would inevitably ensure mutiny. There can be no doubt, that had it not been for the good seed sown in a kindly soil in early youth, all that was good and amiable in his nature would have been eradicated by the vicious system of training to which he was subjected in Germany;—as it was, it left its impress on his character and accounts for the unpopularity which for a time rested on his name among the British soldiery, and all must agree with Mr. Neale, that the lesson thereby taught is indisputable, "*The British Prince must be trained and nurtured on British ground.*"

On the 30th May, 1786, he was gazetted Colonel in the Army by brevet, shortly after elected a Knight of the Garter, and in October, 1787, by His Majesty's command, was transferred to Geneva, a welcome, and in many respects, change for the better; but still he had a morose governor, instead of a parental tutor, a man who made it his sole study to receive and retain all he could of his allowance for maintenance. He, however, had now the pleasure of forming the acquaintance and enjoying the society of English gentlemen of his own age, but not having the means of commanding even the indulgences which they were allowed—

he incurred debts by borrowing money to procure them; but at length, "wearied out by petty and perpetual espionage, thwarted on most occasions by the Baron; chafed by ever recurring annoyances arising from the position he had to maintain, with the stinted allowance assigned him, he resolved to visit England. He was now of age; written remonstrances he had found unavailing, and he hoped a personal appeal to his father might secure an impartial hearing and redress."

In January, 1790, he arrived in London, without previous intimation, and took up his quarters at an hotel, where he was at once visited by the Prince of Wales, who took him to Carlton House, where they were immediately joined by the Duke of York, who undertook to communicate his arrival to the King. Dire was the wrath of the King, his displeasure was inexorable, Prince Edward had returned without his sanction, therefore he refused to see him, and in a few days sent him peremptory written orders under seal to proceed, within twenty-four hours, to Gibraltar, and only admitted him to his presence for a few minutes on the night before his departure. Thus, after an absence of six years from his family, he was debarred all opportunity of giving explanation, or laying open his embarassments, or even of soliciting the King to grant him the usual and necessary outfit.

On the first of February, with wounded feelings and insulted affections, he quitted England, and on his arrival at Gibraltar, was compelled to provide for his domestic establishment at enormous expense. He was, however, rid of the "Old Man of the Sea," Wangenheim, and was placed by the Governor, General O'Hara, under the kind tutelage of Colonel Symes, a man of generous qualities, who considerately made efforts to relieve him from his embarrassments, though, unfortunately, without success. But, to his great delight, he was now appointed to the Colonelcy of the 7th Royal Fusileers, then forming part of the garrison, and had thus an opportunity of carrying out the ideas of military duty which had been instilled into him in Germany, and as a consequence, the strict discipline which he enforced, though he faithfully subjected himself to it, made him unpopular with the men. Yet it is on official record, that "the Prince's general conduct has been perfectly to the satisfaction of General O'Hara, and has met the approbation of the whole garrison." And it is further testified, that of all the officers, he had

shewn himself the most attentive and diligent in the discharge of his public duties, "as well as the most *regular and temperate* in his private hours." Unfavorable representations had however been made at home, as to the disaffection prevalent among the Fusileers, and in consequence he was ordered to embark with them for Canada.

Before his departure from Gibraltar, a splendid *fete* was given by his brother officers, to shew their regard for "their comrade and fellow soldier," which was gratefully acknowledged by Sir Robert Boyd, in general orders, who was directed to say "how flattering to His Royal Highness this mark of their attachment had been."

Though owing to the very limited, or rather totally inadequate allowance, which had been made to him by his father, his debts had been increased during his sojourn at Gibraltar. He left that fortress, bearing in his bosom good will to those he left behind, and animated with brighter hopes for the future, the voices of his comrades still sounding in his ears, singing the concluding verses of a song composed for the occasion.

"For Royal Edward leaves us now!
'Twas he who taught us how to bear
The soldier's toil, the leader's care,
Yet cheered fatigue with festive hours,
And strewed life's rugged path with flowers.
Ye breezes softly waft him o'er
To brave the cold Canadian shore,
To spread afar his rising fame,
And make his own a glorious name."

Under these favorable auspices Edward commenced his voyage to America, which terminated as has been described at the commencement of this chapter.

CHAPTER II.

Quebec—Habits—Society—Desertion and Mutiny—Free School—De Salaberry Family—Addresses—Departure for the West Indies.

1791 TO 1794.

THE "*Quebec Gazette*" informs us, that on the Saturday following his arrival, His Royal Highness Prince Edward received at the Castle of St. Louis, the officers, civil and military, of the garrison, the clergy, merchants, etc.; and in the afternoon, the ladies of Quebec, were introduced; and that on Thursday, 18th August, an address was presented to him from the inhabitants, to which he made the following reply :—

"GENTLEMEN,—I request you will be fully convinced how grateful I must feel myself for the very flattering sentiments you have expressed towards my person.

"I am anxious that during my stay in this country, my conduct may prove I am deserving of them.

"Nothing will give me greater pleasure than if I should be fortunate enough to find an opportunity of being personally serviceable to you—till then, gentlemen, I hope you will remain fully persuaded of my gratitude and esteem."

This may appear mere language of course, but time proved they were the genuine sentiments of his heart, and many a Canadian can testify to their practical fulfilment.

The Prince at once entered on his military duties in connexion with his regiment and the garrison, with that ardour which always distinguished him, and also joined in the society of the place "with gracious and engaging condescension," shewing marked courtesy on all occasions to the French Canadians, with several of whom he associated on terms of the most kindly intimacy. He delighted in musical reunions and organized a society of amateurs, of which the late Chief Justice Sewell, an accomplished violinist, was leader. Though duty required his daily presence in the city, after some time, in accordance with his taste for rural life, he took up his residence at Haldimand House, at the Falls of Montmorenci, from

whence he drove into town every morning. He soon became very popular, and the *Quebec Gazette* informs us that on the 2nd November, being the first anniversary of his birth after his arrival, a ball was given at the Castle of St. Louis, and the city was generally and splendidly illuminated in honor of the day.

Brown autumn was passed, and winter reigned supreme, and its "joys" were fully entered into, and the terms on which he had already placed himself with one of the Canadian families will be understood from the following letter, translated from the French:

"QUEBEC, 1st March, 1792.

"I am in despair, my dear De Salaberry, that we will not have the pleasure of seeing you here to-day. I am more pained to know the cause, but I hope it will not result in anything serious. Keep yourself cheerful, have a little patience, and do not venture out till you are completely recovered. The moment you inform me the roads are passable, I will not lose an instant in repairing to Beauport with Madame de St. Laurent, who joins with me in assuring you of those sentiments of distinguished consideration and esteem, with which I am always your most devoted and faithful

"EDWARD, Col. R. Fusileers.

"P. S.—Many compliments from myself and Madame de St. Laurent, to Madame de Salaberry and your charming family."

A Mon'r.

M. Louis de Salaberry,
Beauport."

This letter affords the opportunity of introducing the gentleman to whom it was addressed, and who, with his family, will occupy a prominent part in this narrative.

M. Louis Ignace de Salaberry, Seignior of Beauport, was descended from a noble family in the Pays de Basque, his great ancestor having been ennobled on the field of Coutras in 1557, by Henry Quatre, for a deed of daring and clemency performed under his eye. "*Force a superb, Mercy a foible*," said the monarch, "shall be thy device," and it has continued to be so to the present day. Michel de Salaberry, the father of Louis, arrived at Quebec in 1735, in command of the French frigate "*L'Anglesea*," and the archives of Notre Dame de Beauport show that he was married on the 13th July, 1750, to Demoiselle Madeleine Louise Juchereau Duchesnay,

daughter of the deceased Seigneior; on the 5th July, 1752, is recorded the baptism of Louis Ignace. Captain de Salaberry took an active part in all the operations preceding the conquest, and at the age of seven his son Louis witnessed, from the General Hospital, the battle on the Plains of Abraham, which decided the fate of Quebec and Canada. On the cession of Canada to Great Britain, Captain de Salaberry transferred his allegiance, and became a British subject. He sent Louis to France in 1760, to prosecute his education, from whence he returned to Quebec in 1768, and finished it at the Seminary. He was of great height and enormous strength, and the "Canadians of old" delighted to tell of his wondrous feats; and, though a man of great courage, he was gentle to his friends and courteous to all, and by every action of his life illustrated the motto of his family. His loyalty was proved many times, and he received, on four different occasions, wounds in engagements with the Americans; during the war of 1775 he was severely wounded by the explosion of a shell in Fort St. John, and in the following year was severely wounded by a musket ball in the knee. In 1778 he married Demoiselle Catherine Hertel de Rouville, but continued to serve till the close of the war in 1783, when he retired to his home, and, in consideration of his services and his wounds, a pension as Lieutenant was granted him for life. He was living happy and respected in the bosom of his family at Beauport when the Prince arrived in Canada, and a warm attachment sprung up between them, and the Prince was a constant, almost a daily visitor, showing a strong attachment and delighting in the society of the children, of whom M. de Salaberry had then several, boys and girls.

It may not be out of place to remind the reader here, that at the time we are speaking of, Canada had been under British rule a little over a quarter of a century, and British society, though very much improved from what it was in 1766, when General Murray sent in to the Imperial Government his report, was still very far from what it ought to be. What it was in 1766, let General Murray say:—"The whole population of Canada exclusive of the king's troops, amounts to 72,275 souls, of which in the parishes are nineteen families, Protestants. The rest of that persuasion (a few half-pay officers excepted) are traders, mechanics and publicans, who reside in the Lower Town of Quebec and Montreal. Most of them are followers of the army, of mean

education, or soldiers disbanded at the reduction of troops. All have their fortunes to make, and *I fear few are solicitous about the means, when the end can be attained.* I report them to be in general the *most immoral* collection of men I ever knew; of course little calculated to make the new subjects enamoured of our laws, religion and customs, and far less adapted to enforce those laws which are to govern."—"The Canadian noblesse were hated because their birth and behaviour entitled them to respect, and the peasants were abhorred because they were saved from the oppression they were threatened with."—"The improper choice and number of the civil officers sent out from England increased the inquietude of the colony. Instead of men of genius and untainted morals, the very reverse were appointed to most important offices, and it was impossible to communicate through them those impressions of the dignity of the government, by which alone mankind can be held together in society. The Judge fixed upon to conciliate the minds of 75,600 foreigners to the laws and government of Great Britain, was taken from a gaol, entirely ignorant of Civil Law, and of the language of the people. The Attorney General, with regard to the language of the people, was no better qualified, the offices of Secretary of the Province, Registrar, Clerk of the Council, Commissary of Stores and Provisions, Provost Martial, &c., &c., were given by patent to men of interest in England, who let them out to the highest bidders, and so little did they consider the capacity of their representatives, that not one of them understood the language of the natives."

It is painful and mortifying to find such a record, but it has been written for our instruction, and perhaps even in the present day, we may profit by it. But it ought to be known that though the evils pointed out were peculiarly felt in Canada, where there was such a vast disproportion in number and so great a dissimilarity in religion and language between the two races, that the system was not exceptional, but was that generally adopted in that day by England towards all her colonies.—Men notorious for their profligacy, entirely ignorant of the art or science of government, men who could not govern their own evil passions, were thought good enough to govern any colony.

Society was somewhat improved in 1791, men of integrity and ability filled the Crown offices, but they were not exempt from the prejudices of the school in which they had

been educated. Hear what a recent writer, Mr. Fennings Taylor, describes it to have been ;—"Such sentiments and the preferences to which they led, were not as well approved of by the French subjects of the Crown, as they were by the Crown itself. To them the refugee immigrants were "Anglo-Americans," and as such they were only known as encroaching neighbours and aggressive enemies. Thus the new subjects and the new settlers discovered that they were more obnoxious to each other than were the original races from which they had sprung. Their past history accounted for their present aversion. French and English power, whether in Europe or America, had always been exhibited in a state of strife, and time out of mind the youth of both countries had been carefully educated according to the canons of enmity. There was, moreover, a theological element in the quarter which tended to intensify this mutual aversion. The Anglo-American abhorred the religion of Rome. The Franco-American detested that of the Reformation. Public reverses had in an unlooked for way, brought these ancient antagonists together, and thus men who had fought in opposing armies, and fostered every description of quarrel, were now elbowing one another as neighbors, sitting side by side, residents of the same country, subjects of the same crown, and competitors, *but not on equal terms*, for the same honors."

The Prince, with intuitive sagacity, saw this state of things, and his goodness of heart, high sense of justice and sound policy, induced him to strive to conciliate and to avoid in every way offending the feelings or prejudices of "His Britannic Majesty's beloved Canadian subjects."

Nothing can better show the kindly intercourse existing between him and one Canadian family, than the following letter—"Hurrah ! hurrah ! hurrah! a thousand rounds in honor of the charming *Souris* and the new-born. In truth my head is full of joy, and my hand trembles so much that I can scarcely hold my pen. And it is another boy ! How I wish that I was one of those powerful fairies who were able to bestow their gifts in such profusion ; how the dear child should be endowed. Unfortunately all this is but an illusion, but never mind, something has said to me that the pretty little fellow has been born under a happy star, kiss him for me, my dear friend, and tell him this prediction of his godmother. O ! no ! I was never so happy in my life. I have this moment sent the news to our dear Prince. It is needless

to await his reply to assure you how delighted he will be. I know his sentiments too well to have any fear in expressing them. Mrs. Staunton will excuse me, and I will go to Beauport to day about seven o'clock ; to-morrow I will go again and every day ;—Ah ! I wish it could be this every instant of my life. I reserve it to myself to congratulate M. de Salaberry in person on the happy event, in the meantime I embrace the whole household without distinction of age or sex.

J. DE ST. LAURENT.

"Though obliged, as yesterday, to attend to my official duties at the Barracks, I could not resist the pleasure of hastening home to write a few lines, to assure you how much and how sincerely I participate in the happy event; a thousand wishes for the good health and speedy recovery of Madame de Salaberry.

And I am always,
Your very devoted servant,
EDOUARD, Col. R. Fusileers."

M. L. de Salaberry,
Beauport.

The child here referred to was the youngest son of M. Louis de Salaberry, who was christened at Beauport by Bishop de Capse on the 2nd July, 1792, and the Register shows that H. R. Highness Prince Edward was godfather and Madame Alphonsine Therese Bernardine Julie de Montgenet de St. Laurent, Baronne de Fortisson, his godmother. The entry is thus subscribed :—

Edouard, Prince de la Grande Bretagne, Montgenet de St. Laurent, Baronne de Fortisson, Henri de Salaberry, John Vesey, Edmund Byng, Lt. Royal Fusileers, Fred. Augt. Wetherall, Captain 11th Regt., Renauld, prêtre, Adelaide de Salaberry, John Hale, Wm. Henry Digby, Lieut. Royal Fusileers; de Salaberry, Ch., de Salaberry, Chs. Thomas, C.C. P.

† CHARLES FRANCOIS,
Evêque de Capse.
20th June, 1792.

In the summer of 1792 a general election under the new constitution took place, and at the close of the poll for the County of Quebec at Charlebourg on Wednesday, 27th June, a riot occurred, which threatened the most serious

consequences. Prince Edward hearing of it, hastened to Charlebourg, and thus addressed the rioters, in French;—"Can there be a man among you who does not take the King to be the father of his people? Is there a man among you who does not look upon the new constitution as the best possible one both for the subject and the Government. Part then in peace; I urge you to unanimity and concord. Let me hear no more of the odious distinctions of French and English. *You are all* his Britannic Majesty's beloved Canadian subjects." The tumult ceased, and gave place to admiration and applause.

On September 13th, in passing through Montreal, he received a highly complimentary address from the citizens, who declared their approbation of the new constitution; aud on the 2nd November, a ball was again given at the Chateau St. Louis in honor of his birthday.

The following pleasing anecdote is related by De Gaspé; "The Prince having heard of an old woman a centenarian who lived on the Isle of Orleans, one day paid her a visit, and having talked to her for some time, (as she had all her senses) he asked if he could confer any pleasure on her. "Yes! yes! certainly, my Lord," replied the old lady, "dance a minuet with me, that I may be able to say before I die, that I had danced with the son of my Sovereign." The Prince complied with the best possible grace, and after the dance conducted her to her seat and gave her a respectful salute, which she returned with a most profound curtsey.

Here is another, but by no means so pleasing, though it displayed the constitutional bravery of the Prince. The Prince esteemed very highly a soldier of his regiment, a Frenchman, a man of approved courage, but who determined to submit no longer to the severe discipline to which the Regiment was subjected, and accordingly deserted. The Prince knowing the desperate courage of the man, and the danger that must be incurred in attempting his arrest, himself headed the party that went in pursuit, and surprised him while sitting at table at Pointe aux Trembles. "You are fortunate, my Lord," said La Rose, "in my not being armed, for by Heaven, if I had had my pistol I would have blown out your brains." La Rose was tried by Court Martial, and condemned to receive *nine hundred and ninety-nine lashes*, the *maximum* allowed by the Mutiny Act. He submitted to this atrocious punishment without a murmur, and refused with disdain assistance to put on his clothes after, but

turning to the Prince, and striking his forehead with his hand, said, "it is the bullet, my Lord, and not the lash which ought to punish a French soldier."

The disaffection which had originated among the men of the Royal Fusileers at Gibraltar, and which led to their removal to Canada, does not appear to have diminished, and punishments were of frequent occurrence with certain hardened offenders, among whom at length a conspiracy was formed, as was proved at the trial. The mutineers proposed to break out of the barracks, and were confident of being joined by a large number more, when they intended to seize the Prince, the General, and all the officers in the Chateau, who on non-compliance with their demands, were to be put to death, after which the mutineers proposed to escape by crossing the river and forcing the captains of militia to give them guides.

"It is difficult to say," says the *Quebec Gazette* of the 28th March, 1793, "whether the folly or the atrociousness of the plot was the greatest; for the smallest reflection might have satisfied them of the impossibility of effecting their escape. Yet, it can hardly be doubted that had they once taken the first step, their desperate situation would have led them to the commission of as much mischief as in the moment might have been in their power." Fortunately the plot was discovered in time, the conspirators were arrested, tried and convicted, and the sentences of the General Court-martial were as follows:—John Draper, found guilty of the charge exhibited against him—sentence, *death*, by being shot. William Rose, *guilty*—sentence, *five hundred* lashes. James Lanergan, for want of sufficient evidence, acquitted. Timothy Kennedy, *guilty*—sentence, *seven hundred* lashes. Sergeant Thomas Urgton, who had been released (from a belief that the evidence would not be sufficient to convict him) *demanded and insisted* or a trial, and was found *guilty* of a knowledge of an intended mutiny, and sentenced to be reduced to the ranks, and to receive *four hundred* lashes. Draper was ordered for execution on Tuesday, the 2nd April, but having made application for a week's respite, it was granted.

We copy the following from the *Quebec Gazette*, of 11th April, 1794:

"On Tuesday last, about ten o'clock, Joseph Draper, of the Royal Fusileers, whose execution had been respited to this day, was brought out from the barracks dressed in

grave clothes, walking behind his coffin, which was covered by a pall, and carried by four men. The troops under arms marched slowly before—the music followed, playing dirges suited to the occasion, and a vast concourse of spectators attended. When this affecting procession had reached the place of execution, and the convict had prepared himself to suffer, declaring to the last that he was innocent of the crime laid to his charge, and when the critical moment was arrived that was to have launched him into eternity, he was thus addressed by Prince Edward:—

"'Draper,—you have now reached the awful moment, when a few minutes would carry you into the immediate presence of the Supreme Being. You must be conscious of the enormity of your guilt, and that you have not the least right to expect mercy. I, as your commanding officer, am entirely prevented from making any application whatever in your favor, there being, from various circumstances of the case, no one opening that could justify me in that station in taking such a step. However, as the son of your Sovereign, whose greatest prerogative is the dispensation of mercy, I feel myself fortunately able to do that, which, as your Colonel, the indispensable laws of military discipline rendered it impossible for me even to think of. In this situation, I have presumed to apply to the King's representative here, for your pardon; and I am happy to be authorized to inform you that my application has been successful. Major-General Clark, in consequence of my warm prayers and entreaties, has had the goodness, by his acquiescence with my wishes, to enable me to prove both to you and the public, that though your atrocious machinations were chiefly directed against my person, I am the first to forgive you myself, and to obtain for you His Majesty's mercy. May you take warning by this awful scene, and so conduct yourself, that by the remainder of your life you may atone for your past crimes; and that I may not hereafter have occasion to repent having now been your advocate.

"The effect produced on the mind of the unhappy man, who could then have had nothing but death in view, as well as on the feelings of the spectators, may be easier conceived than expressed."

We turn with pleasure from this distressing scene, to relate acts more congenial.

On September 5th, 1793, the *Quebec Gazette* announced the opening and regulations of the Quebec Sunday Free School, under the patronage of His Royal Highness, as follows:—

"From an ardent desire of promoting the happiness and prosperity of his Majesty's faithful subjects of this Province, and from the experience of the many and great advantages that have been received from the Sunday Schools in England, under the patronage of the nobility and the Royal Family, His Royal Highness Prince Edward, has been pleased strongly to recommend to the subscriber to open a Sunday Free School for the benefit of all those of every description who are desirous of acquiring the necessary and useful branches of education, and will conform to the rules and regulations that will be made for that purpose.

"The said Free School will therefrom be opened on Sunday next, under the patronage and direction of His Royal Highness, from the hours of ten to three during the winter season, and the public may depend on every exertion on the part of the subscriber, in order to meet in every respect His Royal Highness's benevolent intentions.

"The subscriber requests those who wish to attend to give in their names as soon as possible. He may be seen every day from nine to twelve and from two to five, at the Academy in the Bishop's palace, where young people of both sexes will be taught in separate apartments, all the various branches of literature, on terms most suitable to their circumstances.

JAS. TANSWELL."

"Rule 2nd. Every one of His Majesty's subjects of whatever description, will be admitted into this school and educated *gratis*, on condition of good behaviour and conformity to such rules and regulations as may from time to time be made for the better conducting the same.

"Rule 5th. Reading, writing and the various branches of arithmetic, shall be constantly taught in both languages; and particular care taken to render the acquisition of the English language as easy as possible, to His Majesty's new Canadian subjects."

The following advertisement shows that slavery still existed in Canada, though a Bill was then before the Legislature for its abolition.

"TO BE SOLD.

"A likely, healthy, stout Mulatto man, aged 23 years; has been used to house work, speaks both French and English, and is fit for any hard labor.

"Inquire of the Printer.

"Quebec, 9th October, 1793."

On Sunday, 10th November, a dreadful fire broke out in Sault au Matelot street. Prince Edward and Lord Dorchester were present during the whole night giving assistance and encouraging by their personal example, and in consequence the House of Assembly then in session, passed an address, in which they acknowledge "the ardent zeal and indefatigable ability which His Royal Highness displayed on all occasions, for the protection of their property and the security of their lives."

The masonic fraternity also presented him with an address, bearing testimony to his "gracious and engaging condescension, and exemplary conduct" in every part of his duty.

He honored with his friendship Chief Justice Sewell, Mr. Hale, Bishop Mountain, Bishop de Capse, M. Renauld, curé of Beauport, Père Bery, the last Superior of the Recollets, Mr. Allsop, and, above all, M. Louis de Salaberry, for whom and whose family he formed a strong and lasting attachment. But finding the maintenance of his position incompatible with his limited means, and being anxious for active employment, in December, 1793, he solicited an appointment under Sir Charles Grey, then engaged in the reduction of the French West India Islands, and was ordered to proceed there in January, 1794, and left Quebec immediately, before his departure could be made public—when it was known that he was gone, addresses poured in from all quarters. An extract from one of these, with his reply, will furnish a fair sample of the whole. The addresses were received at the Chateau, by Lord Dorchester, who caused it to be known, that;—"The state of His Royal Highness's health would not permit his going by Halifax during the winter, and that in order to lose as little time as possible, he had taken the shortest and most expeditious route to join his command."

Extract from Address 14th February, 1794;—"The amiable qualities of benevolence and attention manifested by your Royal Highness towards the relief and protection of our

fellow citizens in the hour of distress, as well as your condescension and urbanity to all who have occasionally had the honor to approach your Royal Highness, have invariably claimed our admiration and gratitude."

Extract from His Royal Highness's reply:—"Nothing can flatter me more, than to learn from you, that my conduct during my residence in this Province has gained your friendship, by meriting your approbation. Be assured that though I go with cheerfulness to the post assigned me by the King, my father, I shall not leave Quebec without real regret, nor without carrying with me a remembrance of the marks of friendship and consideration I have experienced here."

He proceeded through the United States, intending to embark at Boston, and on crossing Lake Champlain, two of the sleds carrying his whole equipage, broke through the ice and were lost. On arriving at Burlington on the 13th February, the following characteristic note was sent in to him :—

"To His Royal Highness Prince Edward.

"SIR,—Dictated by the principles of common civility and politeness, and possibly urged by an unwarrantable anxiety to have an interview with your Royal Highness, in behalf of the most respectable gentlemen of this place, we have to request you to appoint an hour, (commencing after six o'clock, p.m., on account of the business of the court) which will be most agreeable to you to receive that respectful attention due to your rank, and you may be assured, although in a strange country, that protection is equally at your command, with the greatest subject of the United States.

"We are with the greatest respect,

"Your most obedient servants,

"ELNATHAN KEYES,
"JOHN BISHOP,
"WILLIAM PRENTICE."

And the following answer returned :

"GENTLEMEN,—I am commanded by His Royal Highness Prince Edward, to return you his best thanks for your polite attention, and at the same time to say, that if half-past six o'clock this evening will be a convenient hour to you, he

shall esteem himself much flattered by his having the pleasure of seeing you."

"I have the honor to remain,

"With great respect,

"Your most obedient humble servant,

"FRED. AUGT. WETHERALL."

This chapter cannot be concluded more appropriately than by an extract from "Lambert's Travels in Canada," published in 1816: "His Royal Highness during his residence in Canada, paid great attention to the inhabitants, particularly to the French, to whom he gave commissions for their sons. His politeness and affability gained him the esteem of the people, many of whom I believe, *really look upon him as their saint* and *patron;* at least, such is the way in which I have heard him spoken of."

It is anticipating, but in concluding this chapter in the morning of the life of the Duke of Kent, I may remark that many, especially such as from misapprehension have been led to form an erroneous estimate of his conduct and character, may have supposed, that as he was comparatively inexperienced in the ways of the world at the time of his residence in Canada, his utterances were the mere impulses of generous but thoughtless youth. But as age did in no degree diminish the warmth of his affections or the steadfastness of his friendships, neither did his mature intellect, enlightened by experience, lead him in the noon and evening of his days to alter his views of a kind, a conciliatory and a just policy which he had on all occasions advocated and practiced in the morning; and well would it have been for Canada, well would it have been for Great Britain, had he obtained what was at one time a cherished object of his ambition—the Government of Canada.

Let us hope that the dark days of Canada are passed, and that there is before us a bright future, and while on the subject I do not think I can conclude more fitly than by the following lines, which are so closely in accord with the sentiments of His Royal Highness:

THE DOMINION OF THE WEST.

Tell me, stranger! how to name thee—What the land that gave thee birth,
Has it place in song or story? Ranks it with the great on earth?
Has thy land mark or symbol? Can it shelter those it rules?
Bears it blason proud and hoary, azure, white, or fiery gules?

I claim no record in the past—
Mine the future's mystic page,—
There my empire looms more vast
Than King's or Cæsar's heritage.
Born in peace, serene and tranquil,
I can shew no bloody claim,
But I have a roll ancestral,
Ranking next to none in fame.

Exists the land or rolls the sea,
Where England's banner has not waved,
Unfurled for death or honor's fee,
Whose valour oft its folds have saved?
On shot-swept deck, and battle plain,
The *Scot* and *Erin's* sons have stood
And borne the standard free from stain,
Or sank beneath it steeped in blood.

And to these, an oft sang story,
I can set a gem as bright;
To the *Lilies* lofty story
I have ancient lineal right.
England, Scotland, Ireland, Gaul,
Land of races great and regal;
Each to me has yielded all,
In my veins their tributes mingle.

What did the sire the son can do,
Dare foe attempt to forge a chain;
Death may his freeborn limbs subdue—
The fetters can but deck the slain.
From icy Gaspé to the sea,
Where sinks the sun at eve to rest,
Lake, river, plain belong to me,
The "Young Dominion of the West."

Toronto, Nov. 23, 1867. W. B.